

outside of the slip ring cavity for discharging air from the slip ring cavity, the second passage having a second opening that opens in a radial direction of the shaft and is located on a different location from the first opening.

9. (Amended) The rotary electric machine according to claim 8, wherein the rear cover defines a third passage communicating with the inside and the outside of the slip ring cavity.

10. (Amended) The rotary electric machine according to claim 1, wherein the brush assembly further defines a third passage communicating with the inside and the outside of the slip ring cavity, and further comprising a fan that induces cooling air flow from the third passage to the first and second passages through the slip ring cavity.

Please add new claims 18-20 as follows:

--18. A rotary electric machine, comprising:

a slip ring disposed on a shaft of a rotor;

a brush that contacts the slip ring; and

a brush assembly that supports the brush and provides a slip ring cavity that encloses the slip ring, wherein the brush assembly defines a first passage communicating with an inside and an outside of the slip ring cavity, the first passage having a first opening that opens in an axial direction of the shaft, wherein the brush assembly defines a second passage communicating with the inside and the outside of the slip ring cavity, the second passage having a second opening that opens in a radial direction of the shaft and is located on a different location from the first opening, and wherein both the first passage and the second passage communicate with the slip ring cavity at one axial end thereof.--

--19. The rotary electric machine according to claim 18, further comprising a portion disposed along the first opening that prevents entry of a foreign substance into the first opening.--